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## **XVIII SIMPOSIO IBÉRICO DE ESTUDIOS DE BIOLOGÍA MARINA**

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## **XVIII SIMPÓSIO IBÉRICO DE ESTUDOS DE BIOLOGIA MARINHA**

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## 1.17 Genetic markers reveal a rich diversity of bladed Bangiales (Rhodophyta) in the Atlantic coast of the Iberian Peninsula

**Marcadores genéticos revelan una alta diversidad de Bangiales (Rhodophyta) en la costa atlántica de la Península Ibérica**

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A recent taxonomic study on the bladed Bangiales (Rhodophyta) has pointed out that the diversity of this group is underrepresented and that therefore we lack thorough knowledge of the group. Species in this group of red algae are a common element in the intertidal marine flora along the shores off the Iberian Peninsula. Between 2009-20, intensive sampling throughout the Atlantic coast of the Iberian Peninsula has resulted in the collection of many specimens that cannot be placed in the currently recognized taxa, although all of them have been traditionally included in the genus *Porphyra* sensu lato. In the present study we used a combination of molecular analysis and detailed morphological observations to investigate diversity within this group. Molecular analyses were based on three genetic markers: the plastid gene *rbcL*, the mitochondrial gene *cytochrome oxidase c I* (COI), and the nuclear gene *nSSU*. The study of these genes revealed unexpected species richness and highlighted cryptic and misidentified entities. The results showed that in this area, the genus *Pyropia* is currently the most specious with up to 5 different species, the genus *Porphyra* seems to be represented at present by three traditionally considered species, and finally, phylogenetic reconstruction allowed us to discover two new taxa of bladed Bangiales placed in separate clades that need to be described. These results modify considerably the floristic composition of this group and confirm the need to undertake taxonomic revisions applying genetic tools to bring to light the extent of the diversity in this group and to be able to contribute to the knowledge of the global diversity of the Bangiales.

Contribution to the project PORPHIBER (Ref. CGL2008-00932/BOS).

**Keywords:** NE Atlantic, Bangiales, biodiversity, Iberian Peninsula, *Porphyra*, *Pyropia*

**Palabras clave:** NE Atlántico, Bangiales, diversidad, atlántico, Península Ibérica, *Pyropia*, *Porphyra*





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